

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. Apparatus for producing printing plates, comprising:  
a frame,  
a mounting arranged in said frame;  
a carrier cylinder having a first end and a second end, said carrier  
cylinder being cantilever mountable on said mounting via said first end of said carrier cylinder;  
a motor for driving said carrier cylinder; and  
an image setting device moveable along said carrier cylinder for setting  
an image on a blank printing plate arranged on said carrier cylinder, said second end of said  
carrier cylinder being is freely accessible to permit printing plate change on said carrier  
cylinder.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said mounting includes a  
carrying tube fixed in said frame and a spindle mounted in said carrying tube, said spindle  
being connected to said carrier cylinder and said motor being arranged in said carrying tube  
and having a drive connection to said spindle.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said motor is fixed in said  
frame and said carrier includes a journal, and said apparatus further comprises an external  
flexible drive connecting said motor to said journal of said carrier cylinder.

1           4.     The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said carrier cylinder is  
2     operatively arranged for receiving a sleeve-like printing plate that can be clamped onto said  
3     carrier cylinder, said carrier cylinder having holes arranged in a cover thereof for blowing  
4     compressed air against a printing plate inner wall incident printing plate change.

1           5.     The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said carrier cylinder  
2     includes a clamping device for clamping a finite printing plate onto said carrier cylinder.

1           6.     The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said carrier cylinder is one  
2     of plural cylinders of different diameters which are mountable on said mounting.

1           7.     The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said carrier cylinder is one  
2     of plural cylinders of different diameters which are mountable on said mounting.

1           8.     The apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising an intermediate  
2     sleeve borne on said carrier cylinder onto which said sleeve-like printing plate can be clamped,  
3     said intermediate sleeve being one of plural intermediate sleeves of different external diameter  
4     which can be borne on said carrier cylinder.

1           9.     The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said carrier cylinder is  
2     operative for selectively receiving sleeve-like printing plates of different diameters.

1           10.    The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said carrier cylinder is  
2   operative for receiving one of an offset printing plate, a letterpress printing plate, a  
3   flexographic printing plate, and a gravure printing plate.

1           11.    The apparatus of claim 10, wherein a surface of said carrier cylinder  
2   comprises said gravure printing plate.

1           12.    The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a crossmember arranged in  
2   said frame parallel to an axis of rotation of said carrier cylinder, said image setting device  
3   being moveable on said crossmember.

1           13.    The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an erasing device  
2   arrangement which is settable set against said carrier cylinder.

1           14.    The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a fixing device  
2   arrangement which is settable against said carrier cylinder.

1           15.    The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a layer applicator device  
2   arrangement which is settable against said carrier cylinder.